

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Meeting June 9, 2014  
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, June 9, 2014. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. with the following in attendance:

**COMMITTEE**

Bethany A. Furtado, Chair  
M. Terri Medeiros, Vice Chair  
Karen Bachus, Clerk  
Jennifer Ahearn [absent]  
Eugene A. Nadeau

**ADMINISTRATION**

Richard D'Agostino, Superintendent  
Dennis Mullen, Director of Secondary Education  
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources  
Anthony Ferrucci, Chief Budget Officer  
John Gannon, Interim Director of Special Services

MOTION 2014-146: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, and seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to go into closed session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-5(a)(1) and (a)(2).

**MOTION PASSES (3-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye      Karen Bachus – not present for vote  
Jennifer Ahearn – (absent)

**Open Meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem

**Student Comments:**

John Brown Francis: Samuel Toth and Maeve Malloy (grade 6)  
Norwood Elementary: Skylar Carter and Trinity Reilly (grade 6)  
Wyman Elementary: Amaya Dickenson and Jaylynn Slack  
Toll Gate High School: Kelly Berard and Isaac Davis (grade 12)

Miss Bachus announced that the City Council met to discuss vote as to whether or not to override the Mayor's \$400,000 veto. The vote passed (7-2) and we will be getting \$400,000 for the schools.

**Recognition:** 2014 Lindsay Ann Burke Award – Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Poster Contest  
Winner: Lyan Pacheco, a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Veterans High School

**Approval of Minutes:**

MOTION 2014-147: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Minutes of the Open Session for May 13, 2014.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye      Karen Bachus – Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn – absent

MOTION 2014-148: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Executive Minutes for May 13, 2014.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye      Karen Bachus – Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn – absent

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**Approval of Transfers**

MOTION 2014-149: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the transfers presented to the Committee.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye   | Karen Bachus - Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

**Approval of Warrants**

MOTION 2014-150: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the warrants presented to the Committee.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye   | Karen Bachus - Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

**Professional personnel items:**

**Appointment:**

MOTION 2014-151: Moved by Ms. Bachus, and seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the appointment of **Elizabeth Drolet**, Assistant Principal at Gorton Junior High School, Step 1 of the administrative pay scale, pending receipt of certification in the State of Rhode Island, be approved.

**MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 1 nay)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Nay | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye   | Karen Bachus - Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

**Retirements:**

MOTION 2014-152: Moved by Ms. Bachus, and seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the **retirement of Colleen Vorro**, elementary teacher at Wickes be accepted effective the last day of school.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye   | Karen Bachus - Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

MOTION 2014-153: Moved by Ms. Bachus, and seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the **retirement of Marsha Richardson**, elementary librarian at Wyman Elementary School be accepted effective the last day of school.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye   | Karen Bachus - Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

MOTION 2014-154: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, that the **retirement of Kathleen Refici**, kindergarten teacher at Norwood Elementary School be accepted effective the last day of school.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye   | Karen Bachus - Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

MOTION 2014-155: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Ms. Bachus, that the **retirement of Nancy Plumb**, principal at Norwood Elementary School, be accepted effective June 20, 2014.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye   | Karen Bachus - Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

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**Classified personnel items:**

**Retirement/resignation**

MOTION 2014-156: Moved by Ms. Bachus, and seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the **resignation of Cindy Reddy**, teacher assistant at Pilgrim High School be accepted effective June 19, 2014.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye   | Karen Bachus – Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

MOTION 2014-157: Moved by Ms. Bachus, and seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the retirement of **John Cole**, cleaner at Toll Gate High School be **rescinded**.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye   | Karen Bachus – Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

**Coaching Appointments:**

MOTION 2014-158: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the following coaching appointments be approved: **Robert Grant**, assistant coach (football) at Pilgrim be approved for one year only; **Christopher Wrench**, assistant coach (football) at Pilgrim be approved for one year only; **Jessica DiFilippo**, assistant coach girls' field hockey at Pilgrim High School; **Jay Metivier**, assistant coach (girls' volleyball at Pilgrim); **Sherry Silven**, assistant coach (girls' volleyball at Veterans) and **Steven Vittorioso**, assistant coach (football at Veterans).

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye   | Karen Bachus – Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

**GBP Update** – Ms. Bilodeau: 667 seniors; 609 graduating; 55 waivers – remaining summer school

**K-12 Summer Assignments Update** – Dr. Anne Siesel made a new rubric for summer assignments, so that there is equality across the board. Teachers who gave too much and those who gave too little are now on the same playing field with the new system. A letter is being sent to parents explaining the requirements of students during the summer. It starts in kindergarten with a readiness checklist in English and math to honors and AP students who have an assignment in every subject. It can also be found online.

**Resolution regarding Mayoral Academies:** Ms. Healy presented a draft Resolution in opposition to the Mayoral Academy. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO KENT COUNTY PREP MAYORAL ACADEMY**

*RESOLVED, that*

**Whereas**, a formal application to the Rhode Island Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (“RIDE”) to open the Grades 6-12 Kent County Prep Mayoral Academy (“KCPMA”) (one school, opened on a graduated basis over a five year period beginning with the 2015-2016 school year) was submitted by Scott Avedisian, Mayor of the City of Warwick, on behalf of Kent County Prep Mayoral Academy and was also supported by Coventry Council President Gary Cote; and

**Whereas**, KCPMA intends to serve the City of Warwick and the Towns of Coventry and West Warwick;

**Whereas**, the Warwick Public Schools needs millions of dollars in infrastructure improvements to its buildings to keep them in compliance with fire code and other health and safety regulations and to render them conducive to a 21<sup>st</sup> century education; and

**Whereas**, in 2006, the City of Warwick voters approved \$25 million in bond funds to repair schools; and **Whereas**, the City of Warwick has failed to issue all of the voter-approved bond money and the bond funds that it did issue were only issued by requiring the district to pay its bond debt service out of its local appropriation; and

**Whereas**, the Warwick Public Schools requires millions of dollars in academic improvements for curriculum work, textbooks, technology and instructional technique in order to maintain a quality education for the 21<sup>st</sup> century; and

**Whereas**, the Warwick Public Schools sustained a \$6.2 million permanent loss of local revenue as the result of having its Maintenance of Effort reduced in FY 2011;

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**Whereas**, the Warwick Public Schools were level funded in FY 2012 and 2013 received an increased allocation of \$437,832 in FY 2014;

**Whereas**, neither Mayor Avedisian nor the other officials involved in the KCPMA have addressed where funding for the proposed KCPMA will come from; and

**Whereas**, the current funding formula process re-directs the entire per pupil cost to charter schools including the KCPMA, including those fixed costs that cannot be reduced on a per pupil basis; and

**Whereas**, the current incremental cost on a per pupil basis for the Warwick Public Schools is \$1,800 per school year; and

**Whereas**, even if the Warwick Public Schools were able to concentrate enough student reductions in one building and in one class to enable staff layoffs, on a ratio of 25 students to one teacher reduction, the potential cost per pupil for staff reductions would equal \$3,800 per pupil for a total potential incremental cost per pupil of \$5,600; and

**Whereas** the average state aid funding reduction for Warwick Public Schools in FY 2015 is \$3,928 per pupil and the FY 2015 budget cost for charter school tuitions based on local support is \$12,800 per pupil, the Warwick Public Schools resources would be reduced by \$16,728 per pupil; and

**Whereas**, the defunding of the Warwick Public Schools due to the current charter school funding formula for FY 2015 will be a net of \$11,128 per pupil (\$16,728-\$5,600); and

**Whereas**, if Warwick students constitute twenty five percent of a maximum student enrollment of 504 students in the proposed KCPMA, the economic impact would be \$1,402,128 per year, resulting in a devastating economic hardship to the district, its programs and our students.

Be it **RESOLVED** that the Warwick School Committee voices its opposition to the proposed KCPMA until such time as the state legislature addresses the gross inequities within the current methods of funding charter schools; and

Be it **FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to members of the Board of Education, Governor Chafee, Speaker of the House Mattiello, Senate President Paiva-Weed, and the legislative delegation from the City of Warwick, the Warwick City Council and the Honorable Scott Avedisian.

[signatures for the 5 school committee members]

MOTION 2014-159: Moved by Ms. Bachus, and seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the Resolution presented.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye   | Karen Bachus – Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

**Approval of ELA Curriculum –**

MOTION 2014-160: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to approve the ELA Curriculum.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye   | Karen Bachus – Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

**Approval of contract award for Food Service Renewal –** Mr. Ferrucci said that although we have a five-year contract with Aramark, under school lunch regulations, we are required to renew our contract with the school lunch vendor annually. We would usually provide a copy of the actual renewal contract, but RIDE has not completed their review of the document. We are requesting that the School Committee approve the renewal of Aramark's contract for the 2014-2015 school year contingent upon final legal review of the actual renewal contract after RIDE has completed their review. Aramark has provided a presentation that they will present to the School Committee in support of their request for authorizing the renewal. Within this presentation are highlights of what Aramark accomplished this school year and what they hope to achieve next year. Also included is financial information about this year's program and next year's program.

MOTION 2014-161: Moved by Ms. Bachus, and seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the renewal.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye   | Karen Bachus – Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

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**Approval of contract award for Pilgrim-Apple equipment for sound studio** – Mr. Ferrucci reported a recording studio is being setup at Pilgrim High School. Funds are budgeted through a Champlin Grant and the recommendation was to award a contract to Apple, Inc. for computers in the amount of \$20,108.08

MOTION 2014-162: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to approve the contract for computers to Apple Inc.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye   | Karen Bachus - Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

**Approval of WSEAC Appointment:** Mr. Gannon recommended the appointment of Michelle Haley.

MOTION 2014-163: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the recommended of **Michelle Haley** to Warwick Special Education Advisory Committee.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye   | Karen Bachus - Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

**Approval of principal transfer – Norwood Elementary School** – It was recommended that John Gannon be transferred to the principal's position at Norwood Elementary School beginning August 2014.

MOTION 2014-164: Moved by Ms. Bachus, and seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the recommendation that **John Gannon** be transferred to the principal's position at Norwood Elementary School beginning August 2014.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye   | Karen Bachus - Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

**Approval of RFP for Long Term Planning Consultant** – Ms. Bachus asked for an extension to the July School Committee meeting for presentation.

MOTION 2014-165: Moved by Ms. Furtado that the School Committee grant an extension and that a copy of the RFP be provided to the School Committee by **July 7, 2014**; with action to be taken at the **July 15, 2014 meeting**, seconded by Ms. Medeiros.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye   | Karen Bachus - Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

**Reconsideration of the bid award for custodial supplies** – It was noted that on May 13, 2014, the School Committee approved the bid as presented at that meeting to Unifirst Corp. for \$13,034.52. An error has been discovered, and it is recommended that the bid to Unifirst be rescinded and rebid that portion of the custodial supplies affected by this error.

MOTION 2014-166: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the recommendation to rescind and rebid that portion of the custodial supplies affected by the error.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany A. Furtado – Aye | M. Terri Medeiros – Aye |
| Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye   | Karen Bachus - Aye      |
| Jennifer Ahearn – absent |                         |

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**Approval of emergency repair – Winman Jr. High School** – Mr. LaPlante reported there has been a severe undermining of the tennis courts located at Winman Junior High School due to one side of the property being washed out. This undermining and instability of the soil surrounding the area is extremely dangerous and as such has required us to close access to the site. He was seeking approval to award E.A. Aiello Construction Co. \$13,890.00.

MOTION 2014-167: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the recommendation.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye Karen Bachus – Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn – absent

**FY2014 Monthly Fiscal Report (Mr. Ferrucci)**

For the period ending 6/2/14:

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Total Revenue received | \$155,057,210 |
| Total Expenditures     | \$125,745,623 |
| Total Encumbrances     | \$ 5,245,567  |

[Excludes salaries and fringe benefits]

**Summary Review of non-salary and fringe benefits costs**

| School Committee | School Committee        | School Committee |               | Percentage of   |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Approved Budget  | Revised Approved Budget | Revised Approved | Exp.&Encumber | Non Staff Costs |
| 7/16/13          | 7/16/13                 | 3/11/14          | 6/2/14        |                 |
| \$24,842,824     | \$25,762,824            | \$26,807,173     | \$25,314,693  | 94.4%           |

**Bids/Change Orders:**

MOTION 2014-168: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, that the bid for Workers Compensation and employers' liability insurance, in the amount of \$968,178 be awarded to the Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust as per bid tabulation presented.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye Karen Bachus – Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn – absent

MOTION 2014-169: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, that the bid for handicap access ramp at Toll Gate High School, in the amount of \$30,650, be awarded to Victor's Concrete Construction, Inc.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye Karen Bachus – Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn – absent

**Information:** Next School Committee Meeting will be held July 15, 2014

**Public Comment:**

Both Jim Ginolfi and Ms. Netcoh thanked the Committee for passing the Resolution in opposition of the mayoral academy. Ms. Netcoh commented on the English curriculum, as well as three teachers from Aldrich.

MOTION 2014-170: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to adjourn.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye Karen Bachus – Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn – absent

**Meeting adjourned: 9:20 p.m.**